

**Economic and Social Council**

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20 March 2018

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Commission on the Status of Women
Sixty-second session
12–23 March 2018
Agenda item 7
**Adoption of the report of the Commission on
its sixty-second session**

Draft report

Rapporteur: Koki Muli Grignon (Kenya)

Organization of the session**A. Opening and duration of the session**

1. The Commission on the Status of Women held its sixty-second session at United Nations Headquarters on 24 March 2017 and from 12 to 23 March 2018. The Commission held _____ meetings (1st to ____).

B. Attendance

2. The session was attended by representatives of ____ States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for non-member States, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations also attended.

C. Officers of the Commission

3. The following officers were elected at the 1st meeting of the sixty-second session, on 24 March 2017, and at the 2nd meeting, on 12 March 2018, to serve on the Bureau of the Commission at its sixty-second session:

Chair:

Geraldine Byrne Nason (Ireland)

Vice-Chairs:

Shah Asif Rahman (Bangladesh)

Rena Tasuja (Estonia)

Mauricio Carabali Baquero (Colombia)

Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur:

Koki Muli Grignon (Kenya)



D. Agenda and organization of work

4. At its 2nd meeting, on 12 March 2018, the Commission adopted its agenda as contained in document E/CN.6/2018/1. The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century":
 - (a) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives:
 - (i) Priority theme: challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls;
 - (ii) Review theme: participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communications technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women;
 - (b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men: empowerment of indigenous women;
 - (c) Gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters.
4. Communications concerning the status of women.
5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions.
6. Provisional agenda for the sixty-third session of the Commission.
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixty-second session.

5. At the same meeting, the Commission approved its organization of work, as contained in document E/CN.6/2018/1/Add.1.

E. Documentation

6. The list of documents before the Commission at its sixty-second session is available from www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw62-2018/official-documents.



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Sixty-second session

12-23 March 2018

Agenda item 6

Provisional agenda for the sixty-third session of the Commission

Provisional agenda and documentation for the sixty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda and proposed organization of work of the Commission on the Status of Women

3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century":

- (a) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives:
 - (i) Priority theme: social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;
 - (ii) Review theme: women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development (agreed conclusions of the sixtieth session);

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls

Report of the Secretary-General on women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development

Report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women



Note by the Secretariat containing a discussion guide for the ministerial round tables

- (b) Emerging issues, trends, focus areas and new approaches to questions affecting the situation of women, including equality between women and men;
- (c) Gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

Report of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on the activities of the United Nations trust fund in support of actions to eliminate violence against women

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the outcome of relevant sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

- 4. Communications concerning the status of women.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the list of confidential communications concerning the status of women and responses thereto

- 5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions.

Documentation

Letter from the President of the Economic and Social Council to the Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women

Note by the Secretariat serving as a contribution to the work of the Economic and Social Council

- 6. Provisional agenda for the sixty-fourth session of the Commission.
- 7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixty-third session.

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Agenda item 3 (c)

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century": gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters

Egypt:* draft resolution

Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

The Commission on the Status of Women recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General,¹

Recalling the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,² in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, the Beijing Platform for Action, adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women,³ and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",⁴

Recalling also its resolution 2017/10 of 7 June 2017 and other relevant United Nations resolutions, including General Assembly resolution 57/337 of 3 July 2003 on the prevention of armed conflict and Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) of

* On behalf of the States that are members of the Group of 77 and China, taking into account also the provisions of General Assembly resolution 52/250 of 7 July 1998.

¹ E/CN.6/2018/6.

² *Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

³ *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

⁴ General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.



31 October 2000 and 2122 (2013) of 18 October 2013 on women and peace and security,

Recalling further the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women⁵ as it concerns the protection of civilian populations,

Recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,⁶ the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights⁶ and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,⁷ and reaffirming that these human rights instruments must be respected in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Recalling also the relevant resolutions of the Human Rights Council,

Taking note of the accession by the State of Palestine to several human rights treaties and the core humanitarian law treaties,

Deeply regretting the passage of fifty years since the onset of the Israeli occupation, stressing the urgent need for efforts to reverse the negative trends on the ground and to restore a political horizon for advancing and accelerating meaningful negotiations aimed at the achievement of a peace agreement that will bring a complete end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and the resolution of all core final status issues, without exception, leading to a peaceful, just, lasting and comprehensive solution of the question of Palestine, and stressing the importance of the inclusion of women in the peace negotiations and peacebuilding processes,

Expressing deep concern about the grave situation of Palestinian women in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, resulting from the severe impact of the ongoing illegal Israeli occupation and all of its manifestations,

Expressing grave concern about the increased difficulties being faced by Palestinian women and girls living under Israeli occupation, including as a result of the continuation of home demolitions, evictions of Palestinians, the revocation of residency rights and arbitrary detention and imprisonment, as well as high rates of poverty, unemployment, food insecurity, inadequate water supply and unsafe drinking water, a sanitation crisis, shortages of electricity and fuel, incidents of domestic violence and declining health, education and living standards, including the rising incidence of trauma and the decline in their psychological well-being, particularly in the Gaza Strip, where a humanitarian disaster continues to severely affect the situation of women and girls,

Deploring the dire economic and social conditions of Palestinian women and girls in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the systematic violation of their human rights resulting from the severe impact of ongoing illegal Israeli practices, including the forced displacement and transfer of civilians, especially among the Bedouin community, and confiscation of land, particularly in connection with the construction and expansion of settlements and the wall, which continue to constitute a major obstacle to peace on the basis of the two-State solution based on the pre-1967 borders, and the continued imposition of closures and restrictions on the movement of persons and goods, including the permit regime throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which have detrimentally affected their right to health care, including access of pregnant women to health-care services for antenatal care and safe delivery, education, employment, development and freedom of movement,

⁵ General Assembly resolution 48/104.

⁶ See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

⁷ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

Expressing grave concern about all acts of violence, intimidation and provocation by Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians, including women and children, and properties, including homes, mosques, churches and agricultural lands, condemning acts of terror by several extremist Israeli settlers, and calling for accountability for the illegal actions perpetrated in this regard,

Gravely concerned by the tensions and violence over the recent period throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and deploring the loss of innocent civilian life, including among girls and women, as a result of excessive and indiscriminate use of force by Israeli occupying forces,

Condemning the military conflict in and around the Gaza Strip in July and August 2014 and the civilian casualties caused, including the killing and injury of thousands of Palestinian civilians, including hundreds of children, women and elderly persons, as well as the widespread destruction of homes and critical civilian infrastructure, including schools, hospitals, water, sanitation and electricity networks, economic, industrial and agricultural properties, public institutions, religious sites and United Nations schools and facilities, as well as the internal displacement of hundreds of thousands of civilians, and any violations of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law,

Taking note of the report and findings of the independent commission of inquiry established pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution S-21/1,⁸ and stressing the need to ensure accountability for all violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law in order to end impunity, ensure justice, deter further violations, protect civilians and promote peace,

Gravely concerned, in particular, by the persisting disastrous humanitarian situation and socioeconomic conditions in the Gaza Strip, including those resulting from the Israeli military operations in July and August 2014, as well as the long-term negative impact of Israeli military operations from December 2008 to January 2009 and in November 2012, and the continuing imposition of a blockade consisting of the prolonged closure of border crossings and severe restrictions on the movement of persons and goods, as well as the continued impeding of the reconstruction process by Israel, the occupying Power, which has detrimentally affected every aspect of the lives of the civilian population, especially women and children, in the Gaza Strip,

Stressing the need for measures to be taken to guarantee the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilian population throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, consistent with the provisions and obligations under international humanitarian law,

Stressing also the importance of providing assistance, especially emergency assistance, to alleviate the dire socioeconomic and humanitarian situation being faced by Palestinian women and their families, and recognizing the essential efforts and support being provided by the United Nations agencies and other humanitarian aid organizations on the ground, particularly in response to the grave humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip,

Recalling the convening of the Cairo International Conference on Palestine: Reconstructing Gaza, on 12 October 2014, and urging the timely and full disbursement of pledges for expediting the provision of humanitarian assistance and the reconstruction process, which is essential for alleviating the distress of Palestinian women and their families,

Expressing grave concern that Palestinian women and girls continue to be held in Israeli prisons or detention centres under harsh conditions, including, inter alia,

⁸ A/HRC/29/52.

unhygienic conditions, solitary confinement, extensive use of administrative detention of excessive duration without charge and denial of due process, and noting that women and girls also face gender-specific challenges, including inadequate access to medical care, risks associated with pregnancy and giving birth in prison and sexual harassment,

Reiterating the importance of increasing the role of women in peacebuilding and decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and the peaceful resolution of conflicts as part of efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of all women in the region, and stressing the importance of women's equal participation and involvement in all efforts for the achievement, maintenance and promotion of peace and security,

1. *Reaffirms* that the Israeli occupation remains the major obstacle for Palestinian women with regard to their advancement, self-reliance and integration in the development of their society, and stresses the importance of efforts to increase their role in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution and to ensure their equal participation and involvement in all efforts for the achievement, maintenance and promotion of peace and security;

2. *Calls upon* the international community, in this regard, to continue to provide urgently needed assistance, especially emergency assistance, and services, bearing in mind, inter alia, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development⁹ and national priorities, in an effort to alleviate the dire humanitarian crisis being faced by Palestinian women and their families, in particular for addressing the humanitarian crisis and immense reconstruction and recovery needs in the Gaza Strip, and to help in the reconstruction of relevant Palestinian institutions, with the integration of a gender perspective into all of its international assistance programmes, commends the achievements of the Palestinian Government in constructing the institutions of an independent Palestinian State, as confirmed by international institutions, including by the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the United Nations, and calls for continued support of these efforts;

3. *Calls upon* international donors to fulfil without delay all pledges made on 12 October 2014 at the Cairo International Conference on Palestine: Reconstructing Gaza, in order to expedite the provision of humanitarian assistance and the reconstruction process, which is essential for alleviating the distress of Palestinian women and their families;

4. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, comply fully with the provisions and principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,¹⁰ the Regulations annexed to the Hague Convention IV of 18 October 1907, the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,¹¹ and all other relevant rules, principles and instruments of international law, including the International Covenants on Human Rights,⁶ in order to protect the rights of Palestinian women and their families;

5. *Urges* the international community to continue to give special attention to the promotion and protection of the human rights of Palestinian women and girls and to intensify its measures to improve the difficult conditions being faced by Palestinian women and their families living under Israeli occupation;

6. *Calls upon* Israel to facilitate the return of all refugees and displaced Palestinian women and children to their homes and properties, in compliance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

⁹ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

¹⁰ General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

¹¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

7. *Urges* the international community to make renewed efforts aimed at advancing and accelerating the conclusion of a peace treaty based on clear parameters and with a defined time frame to attain without delay an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 by resolving all outstanding issues, including all core issues, without exception, for a just, lasting and peaceful settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, in accordance with the internationally recognized basis of the two-State solution, and of the Arab-Israeli conflict as a whole, for the realization of a comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

8. *Requests* the Commission on the Status of Women to continue to monitor and take action with regard to the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,² in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, the Beijing Platform for Action³ and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century".⁴

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation, to assist Palestinian women by all available means, including those set out in his report,⁵ and to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-third session a report, including information provided by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, on the gender-specific impact of the occupation and the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

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Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”: gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters**Azerbaijan and Belarus: * draft resolution****Release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts***The Commission on the Status of Women,**Guided by the purposes, principles and provisions of the Charter of the United Nations,**Guided also by the principles and norms of international humanitarian law, in particular the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949¹ and the Additional Protocols thereto of 1977,² as well as relevant international standards of human rights, in particular the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,³ the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,⁴ the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,⁴ the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,⁵ the Convention on the Rights of the Child,⁶ the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment⁷ and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted on 25 June 1993 by the World Conference on Human Rights,⁸*

* In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970–973.

² *Ibid.*, vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.

³ General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

⁴ See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

⁶ *Ibid.*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

⁷ *Ibid.*, vol. 1465, No. 24841.

⁸ A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.



Recalling the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,⁹ recognizing its universal, integrated and indivisible nature, and acknowledging that the 2030 Agenda, inter alia, addresses the elimination of all forms of violence against all women and girls, as well as ending all forms of discrimination against all women and girls,

Taking duly into account the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 61/177 of 20 December 2006,¹⁰

Recalling all its previous resolutions on the release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts,¹¹ as well as all relevant resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council concerning hostage-taking and General Assembly resolution 61/172 of 19 December 2006,

Recognizing that women and children bear particular vulnerabilities when taken hostage, including sexual violence and reproductive health concerns,

Recognizing also that everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person and that the taking of hostages is an offence of grave concern to the international community,

Recalling the relevant provisions contained in the instruments of international humanitarian law relative to the protection of the civilian population as such,

Reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,¹² as well as the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",¹³ and the outcome of the special session of the General Assembly on children, entitled "A world fit for children",¹⁴ including the provisions therein regarding violence against women and children, and reaffirming also the declarations of the Commission on the Status of Women on the tenth,¹⁵ fifteenth¹⁶ and twentieth¹⁷ anniversaries of the Fourth World Conference on Women,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 57/337 of 3 July 2003 on the prevention of armed conflict, and the Security Council resolutions on women and peace and security, as well as the Council resolutions on children and armed conflict and the Council resolutions on kidnapping for ransom and hostage-taking by terrorists,

⁹ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

¹⁰ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2716, No. 48088.

¹¹ Resolutions 39/2, 40/1, 41/1, 42/2, 43/1, 44/1, 45/1, 46/1, 48/1, 50/1, 52/1, 54/3, 56/1, 58/1 and 60/1.

¹² *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution I, annexes I and II.

¹³ General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

¹⁴ General Assembly resolution S-27/2, annex.

¹⁵ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2005/27 and E/2005/27/Corr.1), chap. I, sect. A; see also Economic and Social Council decision 2005/232.

¹⁶ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2010, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2010/27 and E/2010/27/Corr.1), chap. I, sect. A; see also Economic and Social Council decision 2010/232.

¹⁷ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2015, Supplement No. 7* (E/2015/27), chap. I, sect. C, resolution 59/1, annex.

Recalling also the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime¹⁸ and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,¹⁹ which provides a framework to effectively prevent and combat trafficking in persons, and recalling further the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons,²⁰

Expressing grave concern about the growing number of armed conflicts in many regions throughout the world and the human suffering and humanitarian emergencies they cause,

Noting the particular impact that trafficking in persons in situations of armed conflict has on women and children, including their increased vulnerability to sexual and gender-based violence, and expressing solidarity with and compassion for women and children who are trafficked, as noted in, inter alia, the political declaration on the implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons,²¹

Noting also that women and children who are taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, including in armed conflicts, whether international or non-international, are victims of serious violations or abuses of international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law, which continues to have a negative impact on efforts to put an end to those conflicts and causes suffering to the families of those women and children, and stressing in this regard the need to address the issue from a humanitarian perspective, among others,

Emphasizing that all forms of violence in areas of armed conflict committed against the civilian population as such, including taking women and children hostage, seriously contravene international humanitarian law, in particular as set out in the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949,

Cognizant that States that are parties to an armed conflict have a responsibility not to take hostage and subsequently imprison women and children in armed conflicts and to ensure accountability as regards the implementation of relevant mechanisms, policies and laws in order to protect them, bearing in mind that all parties to a conflict must refrain from hostage-taking,

Concerned that, despite the efforts of the international community, acts of hostage-taking in different forms and manifestations, including those committed by terrorists and armed groups, continue to take place and have even increased in many regions of the world,

Noting with concern the serious threats posed by transnational organized crime in some regions and its increasing links, in some cases, with terrorism, and strongly condemning the incidents of kidnapping and hostage-taking committed for any purpose, including raising funds or gaining political concessions,

Recognizing that addressing the problem of hostage-taking calls for resolute, firm and concerted efforts on the part of the international community, in accordance with international humanitarian law and international human rights law, in order to bring such abhorrent practices to an end and hold perpetrators accountable,

¹⁸ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, vol. 2237, No. 39574.

²⁰ General Assembly resolution 64/293.

²¹ General Assembly resolution 72/1.

Expressing its strong belief that the rapid and unconditional release of women and children taken hostage in areas of armed conflict will promote the implementation of the noble goals enshrined in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, as well as the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and the outcome of the special session of the General Assembly on children, including the provisions therein regarding violence against women and children,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,²²

1. *Reaffirms* that hostage-taking, wherever and by whomever committed, is an illegal act aimed at the destruction of human rights and is, under any circumstances, unjustifiable;

2. *Condemns* all violent acts committed against the civilian population as such, in violation of international humanitarian law in situations of armed conflict, and calls for an effective response to such acts, in particular the immediate release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts, including by strengthening international cooperation in the field;

3. *Also condemns* the acts committed in the context of hostage-taking, in particular torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, murder, rape and other forms of sexual violence, and trafficking in women and children, including for the purpose of slavery, and deplores their consequences;

4. *Urges* States that are parties to an armed conflict to take all measures necessary, in a timely manner, to determine the identity, fate and whereabouts of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts, and to the greatest possible extent, to provide their family members, through the appropriate channels, with all relevant information they have on their fate and whereabouts;

5. *Invites* States, in this regard, to adopt a comprehensive approach, including all appropriate legal and practical measures and coordination mechanisms;

6. *Recognizes* the need for the collection, protection and management of information on women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts, according to international and national legal norms and standards, and urges States to cooperate with each other and with other appropriate actors working in this area by, inter alia, providing all relevant and appropriate information;

7. *Strongly urges* all parties to armed conflicts to respect fully the norms of international humanitarian law and to take all measures necessary for the protection of the civilian population as such, including measures to prevent and combat acts of hostage-taking;

8. *Urges* all parties to armed conflicts to provide safe, unimpeded access to humanitarian assistance for those women and children, in accordance with international humanitarian law;

9. *Also urges* all parties to armed conflicts to cooperate fully with the International Committee of the Red Cross and, where relevant, with national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies, in establishing the fate and whereabouts of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned;

²² E/CN.6/2018/7.

10. *Stresses* both the need for increased accountability and the responsibility of all States to prosecute or bring to justice, in accordance with international law, those responsible for war crimes, including those crimes involving hostage-taking and sexual violence;

11. *Also stresses* the need to address the issue of the release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts, also as part of peace processes, with reference to all justice and rule of law mechanisms, on the basis of transparency, accountability and public involvement and participation;

12. *Emphasizes* the importance of exchanging objective, reliable and impartial information, including through improved analysis and dissemination of data disaggregated by sex and age, on hostages, verifiable by relevant international organizations, in facilitating their release, and calls for assistance, as appropriate, to those organizations in this regard;

13. *Welcomes* the progress made in the release of women and children taken hostage in situations of armed conflicts;

14. *Highlights* the importance of the rehabilitation and reintegration of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts, as well as children born in captivity, recognizing their particular vulnerability to violence, including sexual violence, in those situations, and urges the concerned States to take all measures practically possible to this end;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in the context of the present resolution, to continue to widely disseminate information, in particular relating to Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General and all relevant international organizations to use their capabilities and undertake efforts to facilitate the immediate release of women and children who have been taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned;

17. *Invites* the special rapporteurs of the Human Rights Council, within their respective mandates, as well as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, to continue to address the issue of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts and its consequences;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-fourth session a comprehensive report covering all aspects of the present resolution, including relevant practical recommendations to address issues relating to the release of women and children taken hostage in armed conflicts, taking into account the information provided by States and relevant international organizations;

19. *Decides* to consider the question at its sixty-fourth session.

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Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”: gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters

South Africa:*, draft resolution**

Women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action¹ and the outcomes of its reviews, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,² the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,³ the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,⁴ the key actions for its further implementation⁵ and the outcomes of its reviews, the Convention on the Rights of the Child,⁶ the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,⁷ the 2016 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: On the Fast Track to Accelerating the Fight against HIV and to Ending the AIDS Epidemic by 2030,⁸ Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 on women and peace and security and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Southern African Development Community.

** In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

¹ *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

³ General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

⁴ *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

⁵ General Assembly resolution S-21/2, annex.

⁶ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

⁷ General Assembly resolution 48/104.

⁸ General Assembly resolution 70/266, annex.



Development,⁹ including the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular the resolve of Member States to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030, as well as its resolution 60/2 of 24 March 2016 on women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General, submitted pursuant to its resolution 60/2;¹⁰

2. *Reiterates* the continued resolve to achieve the commitments made in resolution 60/2, and urges Member States to accelerate their implementation;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a progress report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-fourth session.

⁹ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

¹⁰ E/CN.6/2018/8 and E/CN.6/2018/8/Corr.1.

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Sixty-second session

12–23 March 2018

Agenda item 2

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

**Draft resolution submitted by the Chair, Geraldine Byrne Nason (Ireland), on
the basis of informal consultations**

The Commission on the Status of Women recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

**Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on
the Status of Women**

The Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing the significance of the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in September 1995,

Recalling that the Council, in its resolution 2016/3 of 2 June 2016, requested the Commission on the Status of Women, in order to achieve concrete results in each review cycle, to consider and make a recommendation at its sixty-second session on how best to utilize the year 2020, on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, so as to accelerate the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls,

Reiterating the commitment to using all opportunities and processes in 2015 and beyond to accelerate and achieve the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,¹ in order to achieve concrete results in each review cycle, and strive for the full realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women by 2030, including through the contribution of a gender perspective to the full realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,²

¹ *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution I, annexes I and II.

² General Assembly resolution 70/1.



A. Theme for the Commission on the Status of Women in 2020

1. *Decides* that at its sixty-fourth session, in 2020, the Commission on the Status of Women will undertake a review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action¹ and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,³ including an assessment of current challenges that affect the implementation of the Platform for Action and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and its contribution towards the full realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development² through a gender perspective;

2. *Calls upon* all States to undertake comprehensive national-level reviews of the progress made and challenges encountered in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, and encourages the regional commissions to undertake regional reviews so that the outcomes of intergovernmental processes at the regional level can feed into the 2020 review to be undertaken by the Commission at its sixty-fourth session;

3. *Strongly encourages* Governments to continue to support the role and contribution of civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations and women's organizations, as well as national human rights institutions where they exist, in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, and in this regard calls upon Governments to collaborate with relevant stakeholders at all levels on preparations for the 2020 review so as to benefit from their experience and expertise;

B. Themes for the Commission on the Status of Women in 2021 and beyond

4. *Requests* the Commission at its sixty-fourth session to decide on its future multi-year programme of work;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission at its sixty-fourth session a report containing proposals on the Commission's priority and review themes for 2021 and beyond.

¹ General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

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Commission on the Status of Women**Sixty-second session**

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Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters**Draft resolution submitted by the Chair, Geraldine Byrne Nason (Ireland), on the basis of informal consultations**

The Commission on the Status of Women recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women*The Economic and Social Council,**Recognizing* the significance of the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in September 1995,*Recalling* that the Council, in its resolution 2016/3 of 2 June 2016, requested the Commission on the Status of Women, in order to achieve concrete results in each review cycle, to consider and make a recommendation at its sixty-second session on how best to utilize the year 2020, on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, so as to accelerate the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls,

1. *Decides* to recommend to the General Assembly that, in order to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, so as to accelerate the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, a one-day high-level meeting of the Assembly be convened in the margins of the general debate of the Assembly at its seventy-fifth session, and that the outcome of the high-level meeting take the form of a Chair's summary;

2. *Recommends* that the President of the General Assembly conduct consultations to finalize the organizational arrangements for the high-level meeting of the General Assembly.

